

Current FACts

FAC News to Use

March 27, 2014

FAC Spotlight: Old Capitol Gets a New Copper Top

Not since the 1970s has the Old State Capitol received some much needed attention to its copper roof.

Earlier this week, DFSS Commissioner Sam Ruth showed Sec. Lori Flanery and Dep. Sec. Steve Rucker the new shiny roof.

"I love the old Capitol building," said Sec. Flanery. "It is such an iconic fixture in downtown Frankfort that has seen so much history made within its confines."



Dep. Sec. Rucker in front of Old Capitol cupola.

Over the past six months the Department for Facilities and Support Services has worked with American Roofing Company to replace the main roof and gutter system with a new standing seam copper roof. Much of the roof was more than 50 years old.

"This building is a treasure and represents the Greek Revival style of architecture," said Andy Casebier, architect with the Division of Engineering and Contract Administration (DECA). "The roof was in dire need of repair, not just the copper roofing, but some of the heavy timber truss work as well."



The scope of work also included repairs to the cupola and replacing its domed roof with copper. New copper downspouts were installed and the lightning protection system was repaired.

According to the Division of Historic Properties, the front elevation of the building was inspired by the classical Temple of Minerva Polias at Priene, Ionia. It is faced in polished *Kentucky River marble*, limestone quarried near Frankfort. Six massive Ionic columns, each four feet in diameter and 33 feet high, adorn the building's facade.

One of the building's most exceptional features is the self-supporting marble staircase, in the main vestibule, that becomes a double circular stair. The windows of the cupola, directly above, provide a tremendous volume of light to illuminate the rotunda inside.

Construction began in 1827 and was completed in 1830. This building is the third on the site as the previous two burned. For 80 years the legislature debated and passed laws, among whom were well recognized historical figures such as Henry Clay, Isaac Shelby and Thomas Metcalfe.

U Drive. U Text. U Pay.

Enforcement Crackdown; Text Limit App Available

You're guilty...and you know it...

That's why Kentucky law enforcement agencies are warning drivers to put down their phone while driving because agencies are stepping up enforcement efforts as part of the first national texting crackdown—*U Drive. U Text. U Pay.*



With driving and texting reaching epidemic levels, enforcement is part of the cure.

Kentucky Transportation Secretary Mike Hancock said people need to know that Kentucky is serious about stopping this prevalent and deadly behavior. That's why KYTC is distributing federal overtime funds to select agencies throughout the state to strictly enforce Kentucky's anti-texting law.

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Spring Gardening Workshop Enlightening

Message for Weed Control: Toleration vs. Eradication

Article submitted by Melissa Johnstone, Office of Processing & Enforcement, Div. of Protest Resolution
Department of Revenue



Master Gardener Sue Van Patten, pictured left, answered questions following the State Office Building Green Team's Home Gardening Lunch & Learn event on March 19.

More than 65 people participated in the spring gardening event designed to encourage individuals to grow their own produce, choose organic and chemical free options for weed and insect control, minimize water waste, and to utilize and expand upon local resources while choosing healthier eating options.

Ms. Van Patten pointed out various types of planting sites, and offered container gardening options. She gave tips on selecting seeds, on choosing the healthiest and most vibrant plants, and the best times of year to plant each variety. She explained how deep early morning watering around the base of plants prevents evaporation and reduces the risk of plant diseases.

As for weed control, she encouraged participants to become more tolerant of weeds and insects. She explained that some weeds and insects serve as hosts to beneficial insects providing a needed service to the ecosystem—just remember—toleration vs. eradication. Ms. Van Patten also specified the proper way to mulch trees.

For additional information on gardening, a gardening resources page is available through the DOR website under the Green Team tab. You may also contact Melissa Johnstone at melissa.johnstone@ky.gov to obtain a copy. Happy Gardening!

Texting Enforcement Crackdown

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Violating Kentucky's texting law, which took effect April 15, 2010, can be costly. Violators will be liable for fines of \$25 on a first offense and \$50 on each subsequent offense, plus court costs.

The law bans texting for drivers of all ages while the vehicle is in motion. For drivers over 18, it allows the use of global positioning devices and reading, selecting or entering a telephone number or name for the purpose of making a phone call. Texting is allowed only to report illegal activity or to request medical or emergency aid.

For drivers under 18, no use of personal communication devices, such as cell phones and pagers, is allowed while the vehicle is in motion. The use of a global positioning system is allowed, but manually entering information must be completed while the vehicle is stopped.

"When you text while driving, you take your eyes off the road, hands off the wheel, and mind off the task of driving," Kentucky Office of Highway Safety (KOHS) Director Bill Bell said. "That puts everyone else's lives in danger, and no one has the right to do that on our roadways."

Adding one more tool to combat texting and driving, KOHS partnered with Mobile Life Solutions on a "Text Limit" application.



The "Text Limit" app, available at www.textlimit.com, eliminates the temptation to text and drive by limiting or disabling the ability to receive a text once your vehicle reaches a set speed that you determine. Once the vehicle slows to your selected speed, the phone features become active again. Also, you may set a "maximum top-speed" that will cause the administrator to receive an email or text when the vehicle in which the phone is being transported exceeds the selected speed.

The cost is \$24.99 per year, but with the code NOTEXTKY it is free for the first year.

"This is an excellent way for parents to make sure their teen drivers cannot receive or send a text while driving, and for companies to manage texting while their drivers are behind the wheel of a fleet vehicle," Bell said.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there were 3,328 people killed and 421,000 injured nationwide in distraction-affected crashes in 2012, the most recent year for which data is available. The University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute reports that a quarter of teens respond to a text message once or more every time they drive, and 20 percent of teens and 10 percent of parents admit that they have extended, multi-message text conversations while driving.

For more information, please visit www.distraction.gov.